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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
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IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process Method for protecting at least one motor vehicle component against manipulation in a control device, which comprises at least one microcomputer ( $\mu C$ ) and at least one memory module (2, 3), said method comprising: ~~characterized in that the~~  
dividing a code necessary for operation of the control device (1) ~~is divided~~ into at least one master code, said master code (MC) ~~which~~ comprises information essential for operation of the control device (1), and at least one sub-code, said sub-code (SC) ~~which~~ comprises additional information for operation of the control device (1),  
storing at least the master code (1) ~~being stored~~ in the microcomputer, ( $\mu C$ ) and  
causing the master code (MC) to monitor ~~monitoring the~~ manipulation of the sub-code (SC).
2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing the master code (MC) ~~is stored~~ in a read-protected area (11) of the microcomputer ( $\mu C$ ) which is writable only once.
3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein said storing step comprises storing the sub-code (SC) ~~is stored~~ in a rewritable area of the microcomputer.
4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein said storing step comprises storing the sub-code (SC) ~~is stored~~ in a rewritable area of at least one external memory module (2).
5. (Currently Amended) A control ~~Control~~ device for a motor vehicle component ~~which comprises~~ comprising:  
at least one microcomputer; ( $\mu C$ ) and  
at least one memory module; and (2, 3), the

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a code which is necessary for operation of the control device, said ~~(1)~~ being divided into at least one master code ~~(MC)~~ which comprises information which is essential for operation of the control device ~~(1)~~, and at least one sub-code ~~(SC)~~ which comprises additional information for operation of the control device; ~~(1)~~, and

wherein at least the master code is ~~(MC)~~ being stored in the microcomputer ~~(μC)~~ and contains ~~the master code (MC) containing~~ a software function module for detection of manipulation within the sub-code ~~(SC)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The control device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the master code ~~(MC)~~ is stored in a read-protected area ~~(11)~~ of the microcomputer ~~(μC)~~ which is writable only once.

7. (Currently Amended) The control device as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the sub-code ~~(SC)~~ is stored in a rewritable area of the microcomputer ~~(μC)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The control device as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the sub-code ~~(SC)~~ is stored in a rewritable area of at least one external memory module ~~(2, 3)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The control device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 5 ~~to 8~~, wherein at least one part of the sub-code ~~(SC)~~ is stored encrypted in a rewritable area and the master code ~~(MC)~~ is used to generate a key for decryption.